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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 04342 121734 Z

46
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 SS-15 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-11

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EURE-00 PRS-01 ACDA-19

GAC-01 RSR-01 /098 W
---------- 053360
P R 121727 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0471
INFO DOD WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04342

E. O. 11651: GDS
TAGS: MASS, UK, SP
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE HARRIER PURCHASE

REF: LONDON A-212

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM BRITISH CONTACTS THAT SMALL US NAVY- INDUSTRY TEAM PLANS TO BE IN LONDON EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE US BUY OF HARRIERS FOR DELIVERY TO SPAIN UNDER MAP. IF DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO PROCURE HARRIERS FOR SPAIN, EMBASSY OF COURSE WILL BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO VISITING TEAM. BRITISH WOULD LIKELY WELCOME PURCHASE AS WAY TO KEEP PRODUCTION LINE ACTIVE; NEVERTHELESS WE BELIEVE SEVERAL POLITICAL ASPECTS SHOULD BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED (E. G., ATTITUDE OF SPANISH AUTHORITIES). IF INFORMATION WE REPORTED IN REFAIR IS CORRECT, THERE MAY BE DIVISION OF OPINION WITHIN SPANISH GOVERNMENT ABOUT ACQUISITION OF HARRIERS, AND USG COULD FIND ITSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF A POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT POLITICAL PROBLEM. IN ANY EVENT, WE THINK ALL THESE ASPECTS SHOULD BE FULLY CONSIDERED BEFORE ANY CONTACTS TAKE PLACE WITH BRITISH ABOUT PURCHASE.
2. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT REVIEWING THIS MATTER AND INSTRUCTING US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TEAM REPORTEDLY
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PLANS MEET WITH BRITISH DEFENSE EXPERTS MONDAY, APRIL 16.
SOHM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 12 APR 1973
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: MASS, SP, UK
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SECSTATE WASHDC
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